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Electric Choice Workgroup Concludes Review

LANSING – Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, Chairman of the Senate’s Standing Committee on Technology & Energy, has declared that the workgroup of “critical thinkers” he appointed thirty days ago to explore the matter of Electric Choice & Reliability has completed its undertaking. He further indicated that the charge of the workgroup has been finished within its timeline for meeting, and that the Senate’s Standing Committee would be well served by all the information explored and turned over by the workgroup.

Specifically, the workgroup had intensely studied several particular issues including ‘Return of Retail Open Access’ and the benchmarking of progress to precise goals and objectives already existing in law, as well as ‘terms of art’ and definitions identified over the course of the thirteen Senate committee hearings. Moreover, the workgroup had discussions concerning the annual report required of the Michigan Public Service Commission by Public Act 141; it performed an analysis of the Interim Order entered in the currently pending Detroit Edison rate case; it received a detailed presentation of transmission over the Midwest Grid from industry experts; and, it reviewed various matters relative to the implementation by the MPSC of P.A. 141/142 of 2000, the Electric Choice and Reliability Act.

Chairman Patterson observed that specific action might now be taken at the next regularly scheduled meeting of his committee. However, he went on to say that action would depend on the individual committee members.

“There is a certain ‘criticality’ evident to the commodity we know as electricity. The Legislature, the governor and the MPSC must do the very best job possible to devise a long-term plan to ensure the greatest level of reliability in the system, as well as the affordability and availability of this energy source to the widest range of consumers because of the fact that our society and civilization are dependent on it,” Senator Patterson declared.

[Persons interested in having more information are encouraged to contact state Sen. Bruce Patterson by writing him at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909-7536 or by calling 517-373-7350.]

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